

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

May 8, 2007

Relates to Item S-1

Los Angeles County needs to take a strong leadership role in addressing the serious issues impacting the Juvenile Justice system. The Children's Planning Council report on juvenile justice clearly makes the case for the urgent need to reform a system that is failing at-risk kids in just about every way possible.

The path to reform should not be to pay for yet another plan to tell us what distinguished experts and other well-positioned authorities both inside the County and from the outside have been telling us over and over again. This reform effort could very well begin in earnest with what this CPC report spells out, namely: a lack of cohesive data, as well as a need for increased mental health services, improved education standards, increased support for families and a meaningful way of addressing cross-over issues with foster care.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Chief Administrative Officer, in consultation with the Probation Department and other appropriate County Departments review the Children's Planning Council's 2006 report on Juvenile Justice and determine if the baseline data and recommendations spelled out in the report would be sufficient basis for a substantive, action driven planning effort to reform the juvenile justice system, determine if and how a consultant would be useful in enacting the recommended reforms, and report back in 30 days.

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